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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Zonal Border Area in Southern and Western Thuringia

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 16 February 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 3 January 1951, a detachment of 2 officers, 16 EM, and 1 interpreter was billeted in Streufdorf, Kreis Hildburghausen, allegedly to be employed in border guard duty. The detachment arrived on a truck. Another Soviet detachment of about 10 men arrived in Gumpershausen on the same day. 25X1
2. On 3 January it was learned that the German Grenzpolizei along the zonal border as far as Sonneberg would be reinforced during the next few days and that new Grenzpolizei posts would be established in some hitherto unoccupied localities. The police post in Streufdorf was moved to Holzhausen, increasing the number of police there to 40. New Grenzpolizei posts to be set up included 20 men in Volkershausen, 60 men in Bad Colberg, 60 men in Ummersstadt, 20 men in Kaessnitz, 20 men in Poppenhausen, 30 men in Hollingen, 30 men in Eishausen, and a Grenzpolizei Kommandatur and post of undetermined strength in Heldburg. 25X1
3. Between 3 and 9 January, illegal border crossers stated that the Soviet detachment in Neuhaus-Schierschnitz, Thuringia, had been reinforced to total 60 soldiers. The Volkspolizei Kommando of 50 men which was stationed there moved to Lindenberg, Thuringia.
4. The Soviet eight-man detail in Heinersdorf moved to Jagdshof on 4 January. It was said that about 100 Soviet soldiers would be stationed in Jagdshof.
5. A practicing physician, Dr. Weiss (fmu), in Lehesten, Thuringia, was evicted on 6 January, allegedly because 20 Soviet officers would be billeted in his apartment. These officers were said to belong to a unit of 100 soldiers who were to be quartered in the settlement, part of which was already vacated by civilian residents.
6. The Soviet detail on Heinrichshoehe (hill) near Ditschendorf-Heinrichsdorf, which previously numbered three or four soldiers, was increased to about 25 men with one machine gun during the night of 5 January.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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7. On 9 January, it was learned that 70 Soviet soldiers recently arrived in Neuhaus-Schierschmitz and moved into the Volkspolizei quarters there.
8. No Soviet troop units were observed in Salzwedel or in the area north of the town on 6 January. No changes were observed in the area close to the zonal border. [] border control was performed by Volkspolizei personnel and Soviet guards and patrols. A Soviet border guard headquarters with 150 to 200 troops and a Grenzpolizei unit of 150 to 200 police were stationed in Salzwedel.
9. On 9 January, it was learned that quarters for about 50 soldiers each were being prepared in about 15 villages along the zonal border in the Eschwege area. However, only details of two or three soldiers were observed in these quarters.
10. A unit of 40 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets arrived at the Soviet kommandatura in Gerstungen on 13 January. The kommandatura chief, when asked about a soccer game, said "No soccer, all old men to Weimar and young men from Weimar today." The guard on the observation platform on top of the kommandatura building resumed his duty in the afternoon of 13 January.
11. Only 40 Soviet soldiers were observed in Lauchroeden on 13 January. They included sentries at the barrier blocking the road fork from Wartha to Eisenach and Herleshausen, and patrols guarding the zonal border along the Terra River in the Wommen-Herleshausen sector. *

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* [] Comment. The information from the Thuringian area confirms and supplements previous reports [] on changes in the disposition of Soviet Army detachments and German Grenzpolizei Kommandos.

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All available information indicates that the personnel on guard duty along the Soviet -U.S. zonal border have been reinforced since the beginning of January. Since this information refers to only specific border sectors, the total strength of Soviet and German personnel employed in border duty cannot be determined. It is believed, however, that Eighth Ods Army units stationed in the area near the zonal border are also assigned border guard missions.

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[] Changes regarding the control of the zonal border in the area north of the Harz Mountains have apparently not occurred.

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